

**Formula 3a.**

16. (previously amended) A compound in accordance with Claim 15 where the HF<sub>2</sub>CO group is in the 5 position of the benzimidazole moiety.

17. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that has

**Formula 4a.**

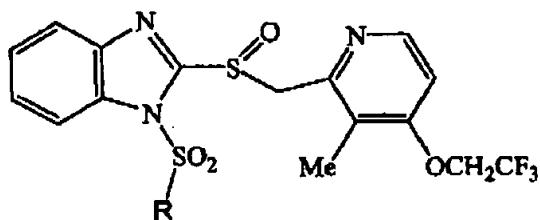
18. (currently amended) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that ~~includes~~ has only one COOH group, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

19. (currently amended) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that ~~includes~~ has only two COOH groups, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

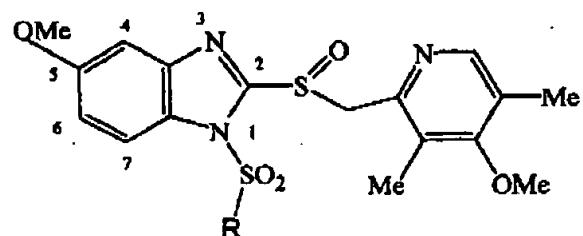
20. (currently amended) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 where R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are hydrogen and R<sub>1</sub> is OCH<sub>2</sub>COOH attached in the 4 position on the phenyl ring ~~relative~~ relative to the sulfonyl group, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

21. (original) A compound of **Formula 1**, **Formula 2**, **Formula 3** or of **Formula 4**

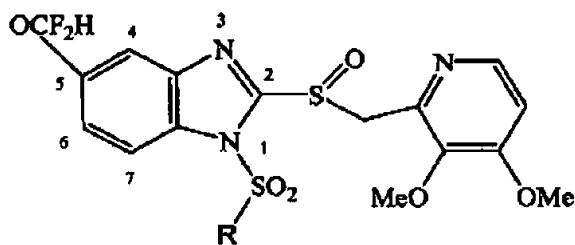
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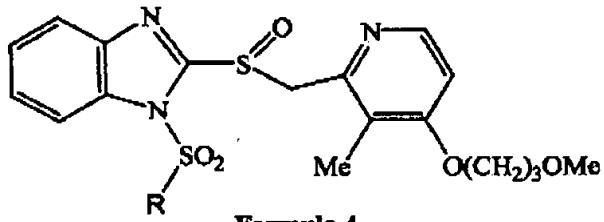
Formula 1



Formula 2



Formula 3

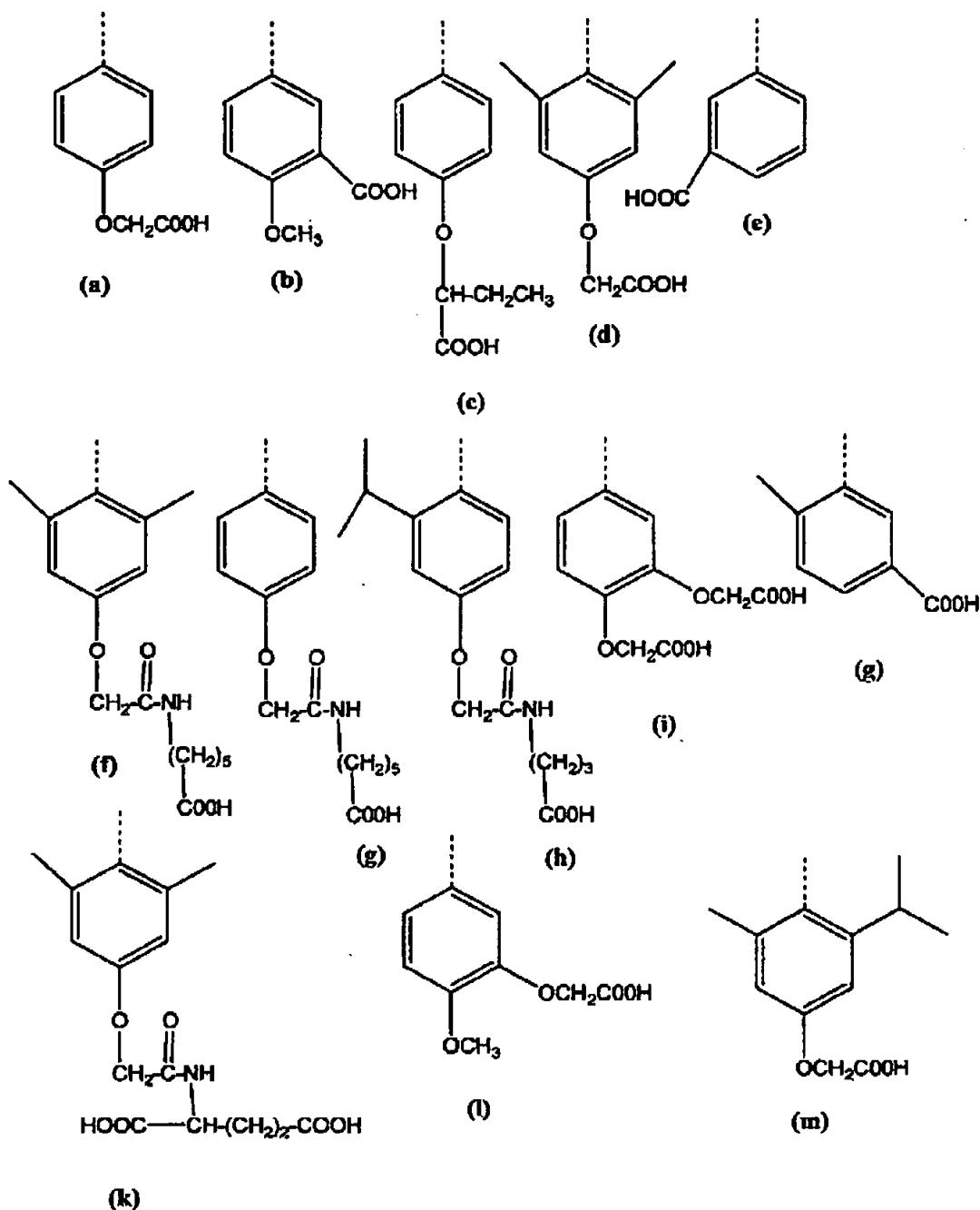


Formula 4

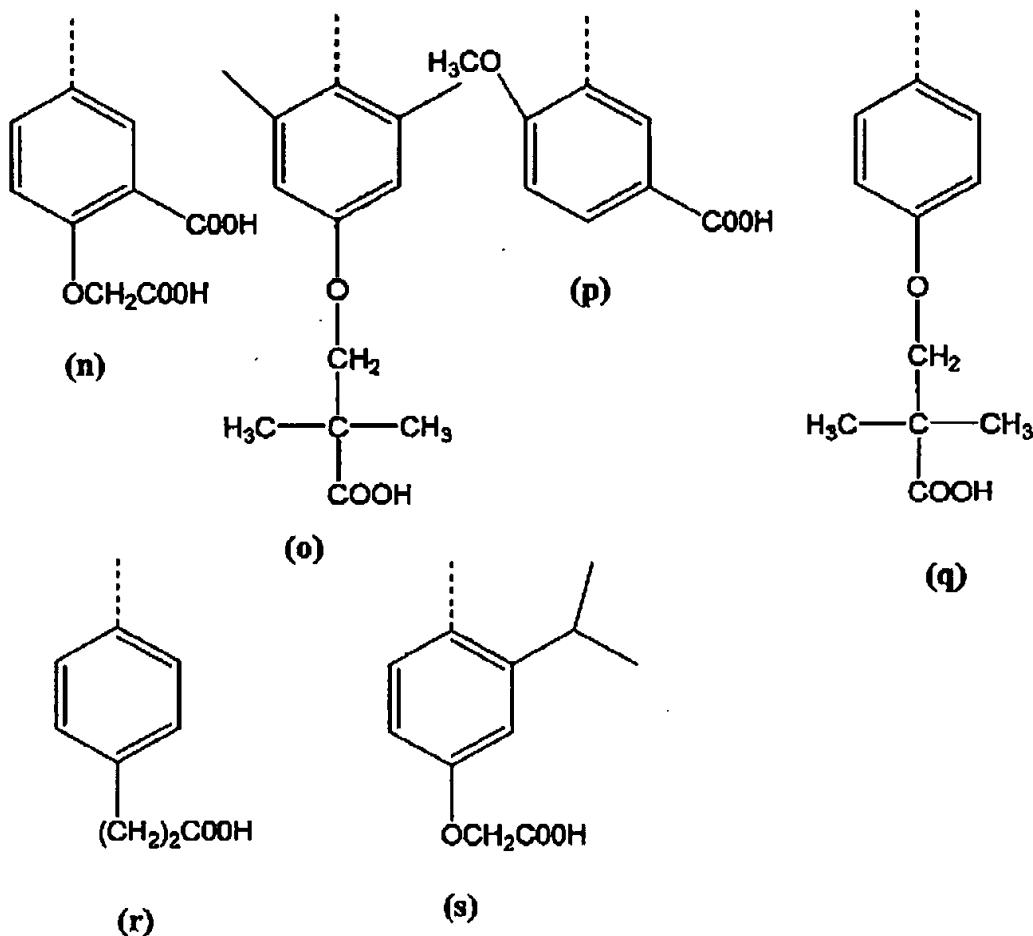
or isomers of the compounds of Formulas 2 and 3 where the OCH<sub>3</sub>, and HF<sub>2</sub>CO groups, respectively are linked to the 6 position of the benzimidazole ring, and

wherein R represents the groups selected from Formulas (a) through (s), the dashed line represents the bond connecting the R group with the SO<sub>2</sub> group,

12



13

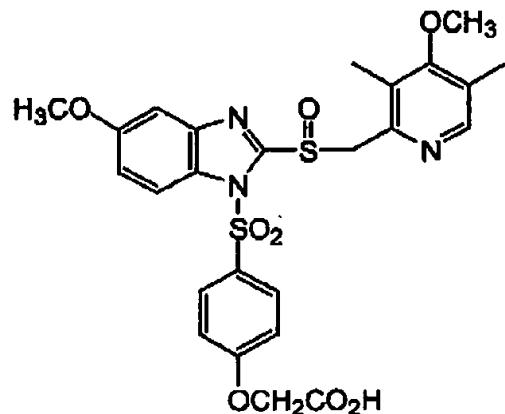


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.

22. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 21 of Formula 1.
23. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 21 of Formula 2.
24. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 23 where the  $\text{CH}_3\text{O}$  group is in the 5 position of the benzimidazole moiety.
25. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 21 of Formula 3.

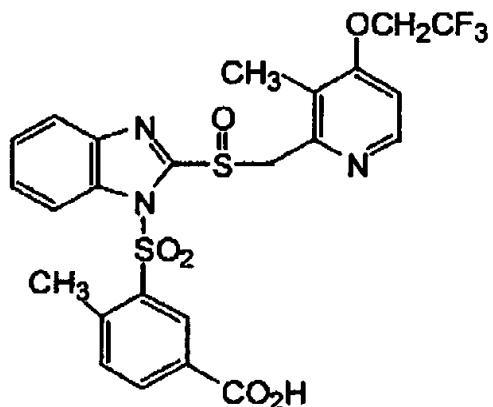
26. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 25 where the HF<sub>2</sub>O group is in the 5 position of the benzimidazole moiety.
27. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 21 of Formula 4.
28. (canceled)
29. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a compound in accordance with Claim 1.
30. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a compound in accordance with Claim 11.
31. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a compound in accordance with Claim 21.
32. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a compound in accordance with Claim 28.
33. (Canceled)
34. (new) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 having two R<sub>5</sub> groups which represent COOH, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.
35. (new) A compound of the formula

15



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

36. (new) A compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.